



CLASSIC

ISSUE 7

\$2.50 USA
\$3.15 CAN

STAR WARS

A.W.

ARCHIE GOODWIN • AL WILLIAMSON

Archie Goodwin
Writer

Al Williamson
Allen Nunis
Artists

Matthew Hollingsworth
Colorist

Anina Bennett
Bob Cooper
Editors

Al Williamson
Cover artist

Matthew Hollingsworth
Cover colorist

Dark Horse Comics, Inc.

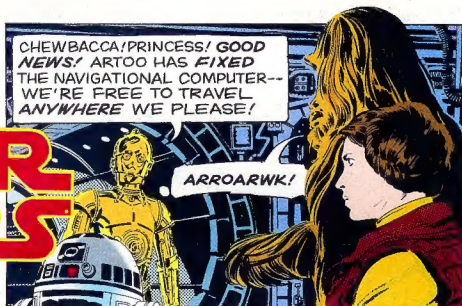
Mike Richardson ♦ publisher
Neil Hankerson ♦ v. p. of operations
Randy Stradley ♦ creative director
Barbara Kesel ♦ managing editor
Ronnie Noize ♦ marketing director
Bob Schreck ♦ special projects director
Andy Karabatsos ♦ controller
Mark Anderson ♦ general counsel
Cece Cutsforth ♦ design director
Jerry Prosser ♦ editorial coordinator
Jeff Gillis ♦ shipping manager

Classic Star Wars® #7,
February 1993. Published
monthly by Dark Horse Comics,
Inc., 10956 SE Main Street,
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222. Star
Wars® © 1993 Lucasfilm Ltd. All
rights reserved. Used under
authorization. Text and
illustrations for Classic Star
Wars® are © 1993 Lucasfilm
Ltd. All other material, unless
otherwise specified, is © 1993
Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All
rights reserved. No part of this
publication may be reproduced
by any means without written
permission from Lucasfilm Ltd.
No similarity between any of the
names, characters, persons,
and/or institutions in this
publication and those of any
preexisting person or institution
is intended, and any similarity
that may exist is purely
coincidental.
PRINTED IN CANADA.



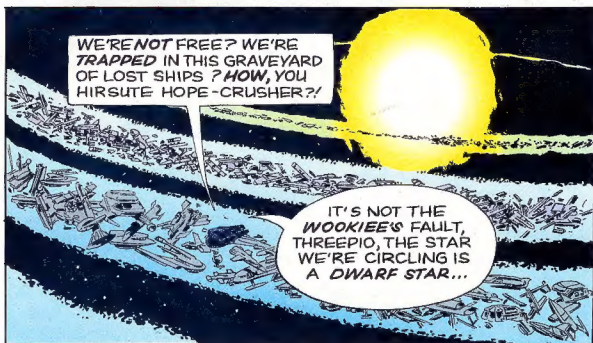


STAR WARS



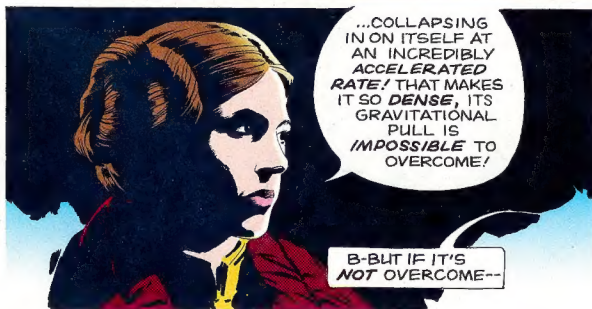
CHEWBACCA! PRINCESS! GOOD NEWS! ARTOO HAS FIXED THE NAVIGATIONAL COMPUTER-- WE'RE FREE TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE WE PLEASE!

ARROARWK!



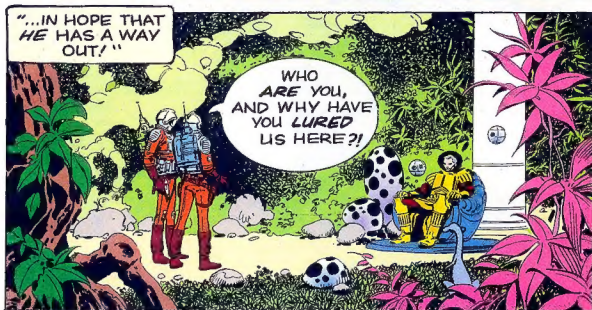
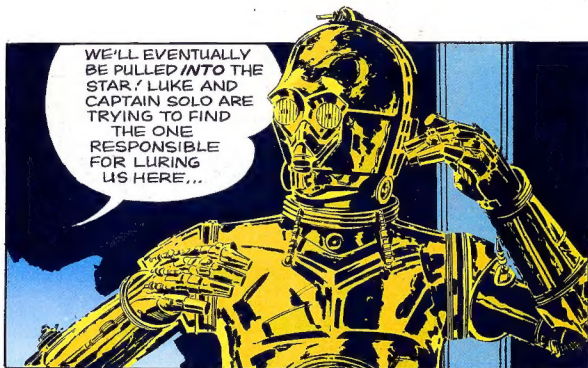
WE'RE NOT FREE? WE'RE TRAPPED IN THIS GRAVEYARD OF LOST SHIPS? HOW, YOU HIRSUTE HOPE-CRUSHER?!

IT'S NOT THE WOOKIEE'S FAULT, THREEPIO, THE STAR WE'RE CIRCLING IS A DWARF STAR...

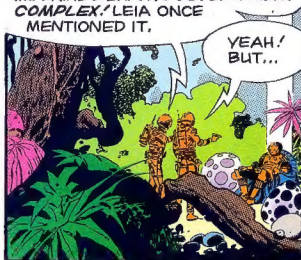


...COLLAPSING IN ON ITSELF AT AN INCREDIBLY ACCELERATED RATE! THAT MAKES IT SO DENSE, ITS GRAVITATIONAL PULL IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OVERCOME!

B-BUT IF IT'S NOT OVERCOME--

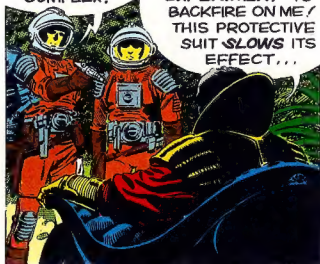


HAN, THERE WAS A **SCIENTIST** NAMED DOCTOR ARAKKUS--THE HEAD OF AN IMPERIAL WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX. LEIA ONCE MENTIONED IT.



...THE REBELS
DESTROYED THAT
COMPLEX!

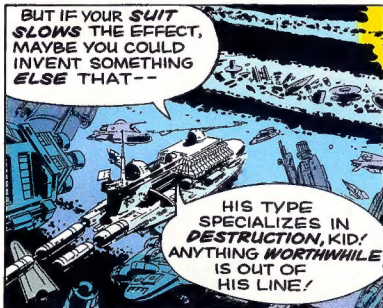
AND IN DOING SO
CAUSED A RADIATION
EXPERIMENT TO
BACKFIRE ON ME!
THIS PROTECTIVE
SUIT SLOWS ITS
EFFECT,...



...BUT FOR ALL
PURPOSES, I AM
DOOMED. THEREFORE
I'VE DEVOTED MY
FINAL EXPERIMENT
TO DOOMING OTHERS--
PARTICULARLY
REBELS LIKE
YOU.

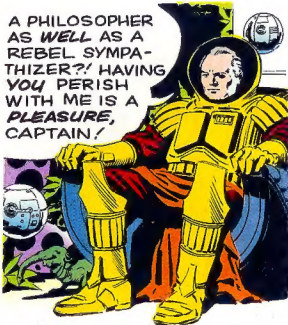


BUT IF YOUR SUIT
SLOWS THE EFFECT,
MAYBE YOU COULD
INVENT SOMETHING
ELSE THAT--

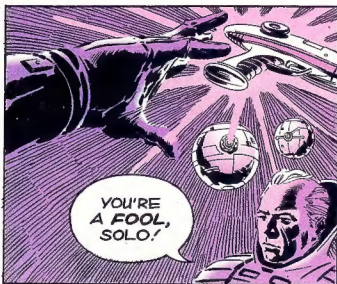


HIS TYPE
SPECIALIZES IN
DESTRUCTION, KID!
ANYTHING WORTHWHILE
IS OUT OF
HIS LINE!

A PHILOSOPHER
AS WELL AS A
REBEL SYMPA-
THIZER?! HAVING
YOU PERISH
WITH ME IS A
PLEASURE,
CAPTAIN!



MAYBE
YOU'LL GO
EARLY,
CHUCKLES!



YOU'RE
A FOOL,
SOLO!



HIS MIND **HAS** TO BE ON HAN AND LUKE, THREEPIO! WE HAVEN'T **HEARD** ANYTHING SINCE THEY LEFT...

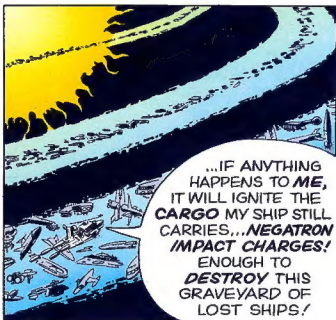


... AND IN THIS CASE, I **DOUBT** THAT NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!



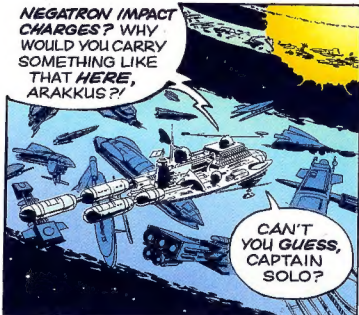
Even as Leia speaks, the bad news is getting worse!

OBSERVE THIS
DEVICE
ATTACHED TO
MY SUIT...



...IF ANYTHING
HAPPENS TO ME,
IT WILL IGNITE THE
CARGO MY SHIP STILL
CARRIES... **NEGATRON
IMPACT CHARGES!**
ENOUGH TO
**DESTROY THIS
GRAVEYARD OF
LOST SHIPS!**

**NEGATRON IMPACT
CHARGES? WHY
WOULD YOU CARRY
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT HERE,
ARAKKUS?!**

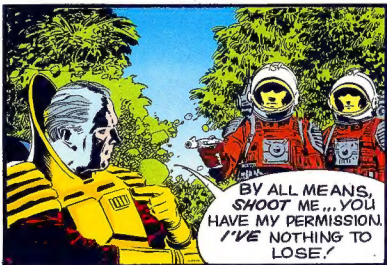


CAN'T
YOU GUESS,
CAPTAIN
SOLO?

THE ACCELERATED COLLAPSE
OF THIS STAR WE CIRCLE
ISN'T **NATURAL**... I CAUSED IT
THROUGH **NEGATRON-
CHARGE BOMBARDMENT!**



YOU
MADMAN!
I OUGHTA--

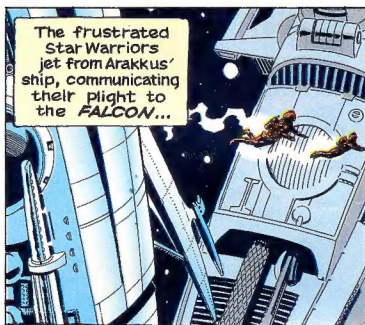
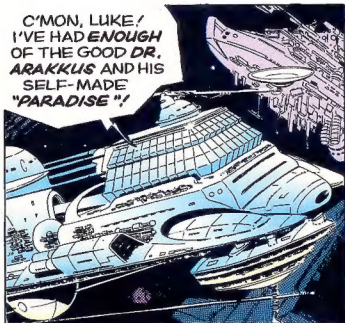


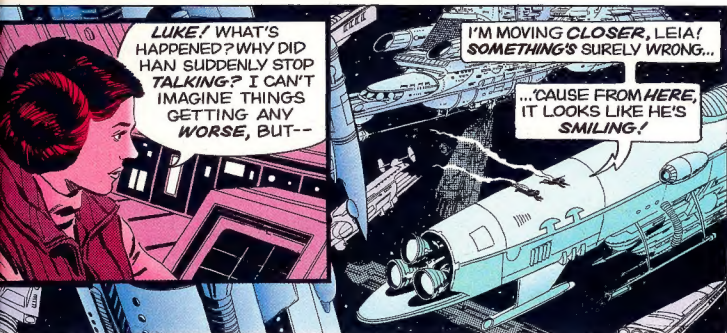
BY ALL MEANS,
SHOOT ME... YOU
HAVE MY PERMISSION.
I'VE NOTHING TO
LOSE!

For a moment, Han's finger tightens on the blaster's trigger...



C'MON, LUKE! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE GOOD DR. ARAKKUS AND HIS SELF-MADE "PARADISE"!





LUKE! WHAT'S
HAPPENED? WHY DID
HAN SUDDENLY STOP
TALKING? I CAN'T
IMAGINE THINGS
GETTING ANY
WORSE, BUT--

I'M MOVING CLOSER, LEIA!
SOMETHING'S SURELY WRONG...

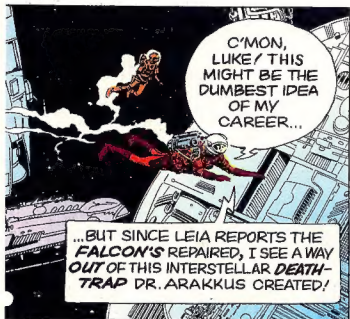
... 'CAUSE FROM HERE,
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S
SMILING!



Han suddenly reverses course...

I GOT
AN IDEA,
LUKE!

IT COULD
BUST US FREE
OF THAT COLLAPSED
STAR'S GRAVITATIONAL
PULL... IF IT
DOESN'T KILL
US INSTEAD!





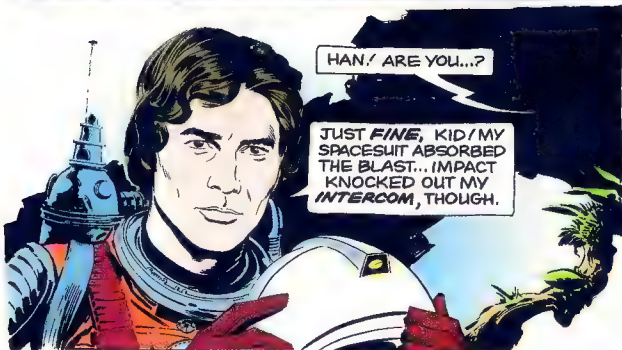
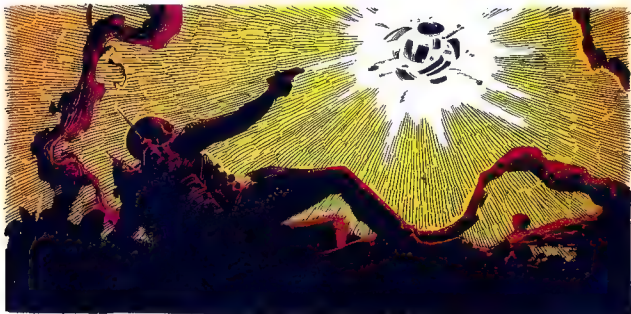
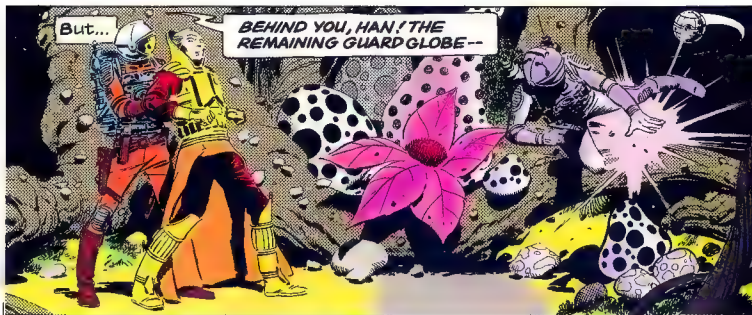
HAVE YOU **FORGOTTEN** THIS DEVICE CAN AUTOMATICALLY DETONATE MY SUPPLY OF **NEGATRON CHARGES**? DO YOU **WISH** TO END EVERYTHING THIS **INSTANT**, SOLO?!



WRONG, DOCTOR! HE'S DRIVING YOU TO WHERE I CAN GRAB YOU!

SORRY IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO SNEAK INTO THE **SHIP**, HAN!

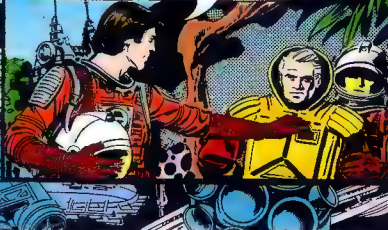




AND WHAT HAS ALL THIS BRAVADO
GAINED YOU, SOLO? *NOTHING!*
YOU, YOUR SHIP, AND COMPANIONS
ARE STILL GOING TO *PERISH*
IN THE COLLAPSED STAR
I CREATED!



UH-UH, DOC! I'M TAKING THIS
DETONATOR FROM YOU! IT'S GONNA
BLOW US *FREE...* OR INTO ATOMS!
WHICHEVER COMES FIRST!



LUKE! THIS IS LEIA--
WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WE WERE LISTENING
OVER HAN'S
SPACESUIT
INTERCOM WHEN
SOMETHING WENT
WRONG!

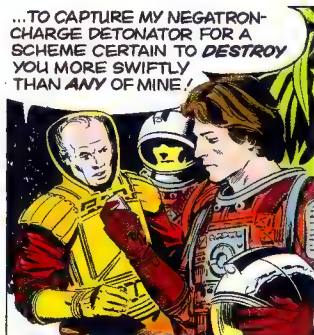


A *GUARD GLOBE* ATTACK! ITS
BLAST KNOCKED OUT HAN'S
COMMUNICATOR-- BUT HAN
KNOCKED *IT* OUT!



TELL YOUR
PRINCESS THE
PURPOSE BEHIND
CAPTAIN SOLO'S
HEROICS...

...TO CAPTURE MY NEGATRON-
CHARGE DETONATOR FOR A
SCHEME CERTAIN TO *DESTROY*
YOU MORE SWIFTLY
THAN *ANY* OF MINE!



LUKE, WHAT'S HAN'S
PLAN? WHY IS **DR.
ARAKKUS** SO
PLEASED ?/

WELL, LEIA, I
THINK THERE'S
A CERTAIN
AMOUNT OF...
UH... **RISK**,
AND...

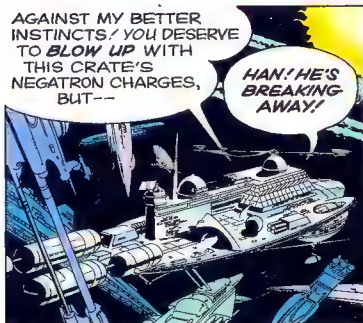


WE'LL EXPLAIN BACK ON THE
FALCON, KID. LET'S FIND A
SPACESUIT FOR THE EMPIRE'S
LAUGHING-GENIUS!

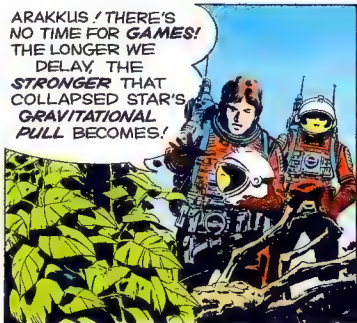


AGAINST MY BETTER
INSTINCTS, YOU DESERVE
TO **BLOW UP** WITH
THIS CRATE'S
NEGATRON CHARGES,
BUT--

**HAN! HE'S
BREAKING
AWAY!**



ARAKKUS! THERE'S
NO TIME FOR **GAMES!**
THE LONGER WE
DELAY, THE
STRONGER THAT
COLLAPSED STAR'S
GRAVITATIONAL
PULL BECOMES!



ONCE I KNEW I WAS **DOOMED** FROM
RADIATION...I CREATED **THIS** PLACE
TO DIE IN, **REBELS!**
DESTROY **YOURSELVES**
WHEREVER YOU LIKE.
I REMAIN **HERE!**

HE
SEEMS
PRETTY
CERTAIN
YOUR PLAN
WON'T
WORK.

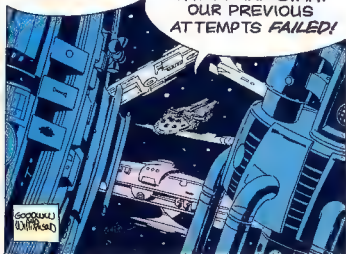


KID, YOU GONNA TRUST
THE EMPIRE'S GREATEST
SCIENTIFIC GENIUS...
OR **ME?** LET'S
GET BACK TO
THE **FALCON!**



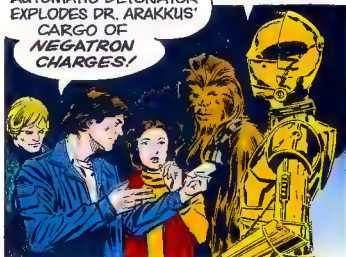
HAN! LUKE!
THANK THE FORCE
YOU'RE **BACK!**
B-BUT...

...WHAT'S THIS ABOUT
BREAKING **FREE** OF
THE DWARF STAR?
OUR PREVIOUS
ATTEMPTS **FAILED!**



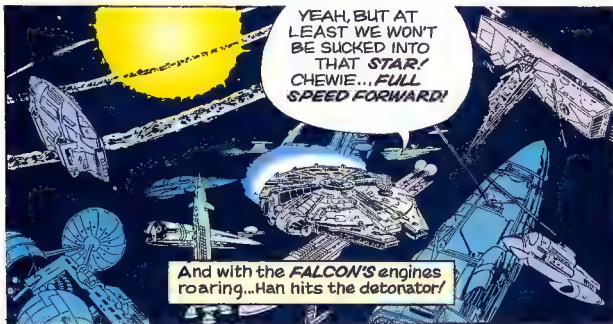
THIS TIME WE'RE
GETTIN' A **BOOST**,
PRINCESS--WHEN THIS
AUTOMATIC DETONATOR
EXPLODES DR. ARAKKUS'
CARGO OF
NEGATRON
CHARGES!

C-CAPTAIN... THE
BLAST COULD
VAPORIZE US!

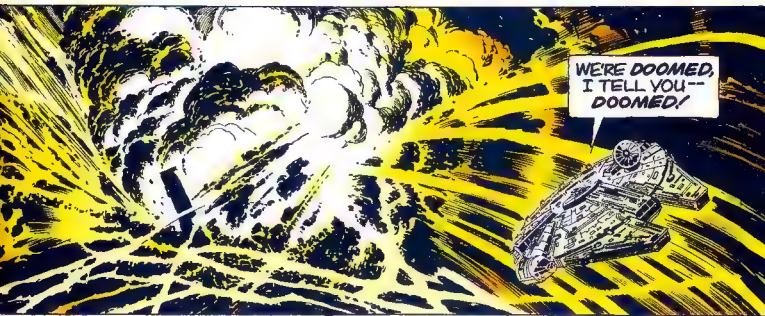


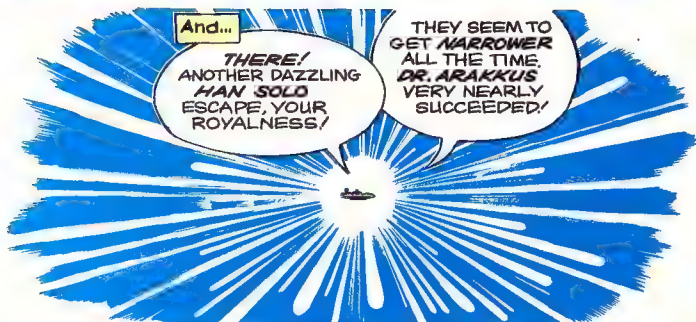
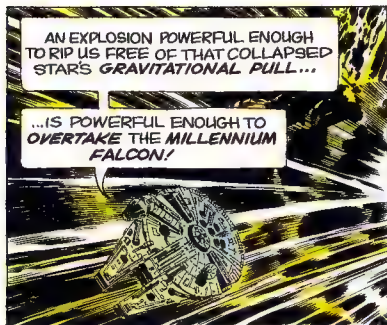
YEAH, BUT AT
LEAST WE WON'T
BE SUCKED INTO
THAT **STAR!**
CHEWIE... **FULL**
SPEED FORWARD!

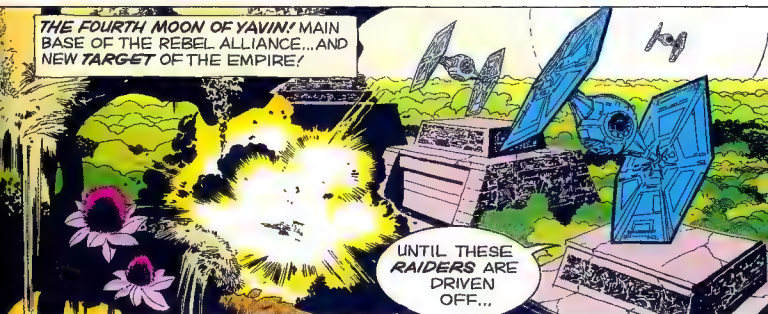
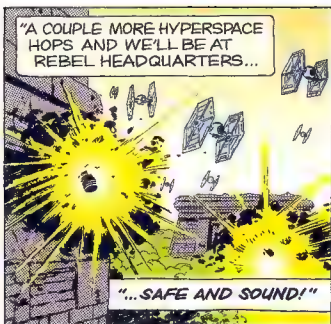
And with the **FALCON'S** engines
roaring... Han hits the detonator!



WE'RE **DOOMED**,
I TELL YOU--
DOOMED!







...TRANSMIT A **GENERAL ALERT!** WARN ANY OF OUR INCOMING UNITS AWAY FROM THIS SYSTEM!

IMMEDIATELY, GENERAL DODONNA!



The **MILLENNIUM FALCON** receives Rebel headquarters' warning transmission...

WE NEED A NEW DESTINATION, YOUR WORSHIP...



...THE EMPIRE'S DECIDED
TO STOP **BLOCKADING**
THE YAVIN BASE AND
START
ATTACKING
IT./

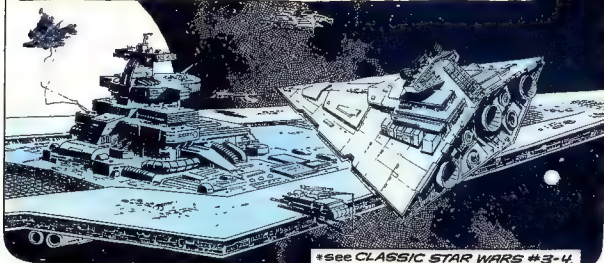
HOPEFULLY
THEY'RE JUST
PROBING OUR
DEFENSES, HAN.
BUT IF **NOT--**



AND IF **DARTH**
VADER IS BEHIND
THE ASSAULT,
THE DROIDS AND
I HAVE
INFORMATION
THAT COULD
HELP!



"ON OUR SPY MISSION, WE RECORDED ALL KINDS OF INFORMATION
ABOUT DARTH VADER'S NEW **BATTLE CRUISER**..."

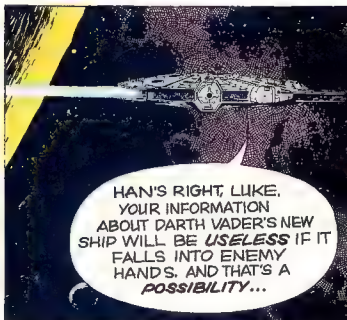


*See **CLASSIC STAR WARS** #3-4.

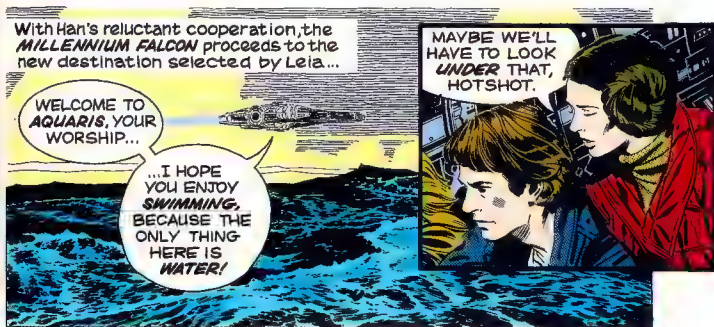
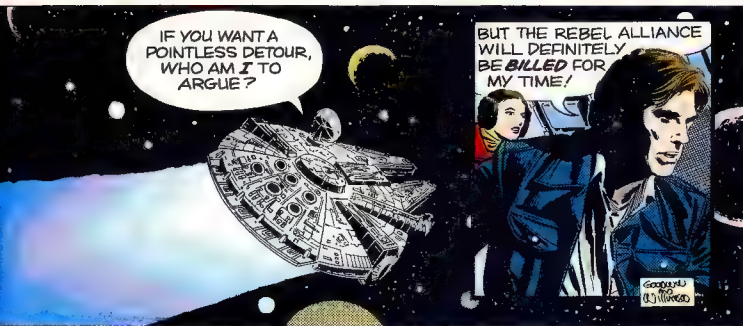
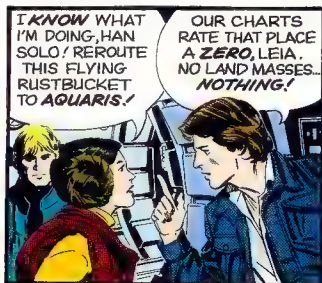
...IF **THAT** MONSTER'S BEING
USED IN THIS ATTACK ON
REBEL HEADQUARTERS, IT'S
VITAL WE REACH THERE!

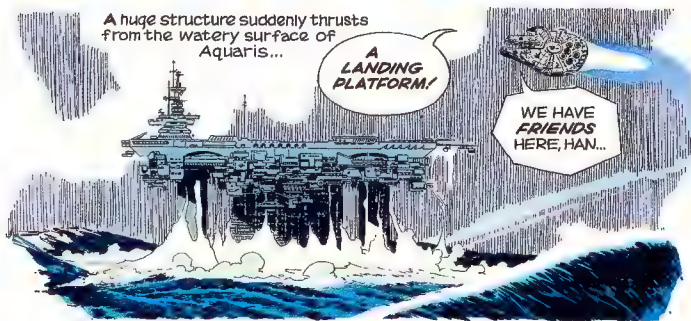
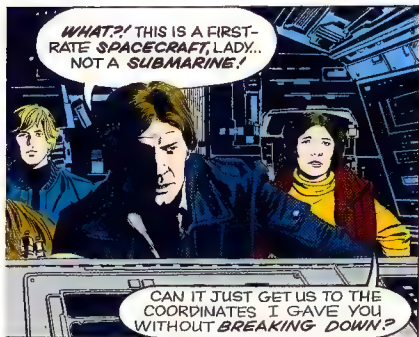


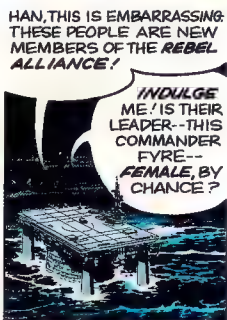
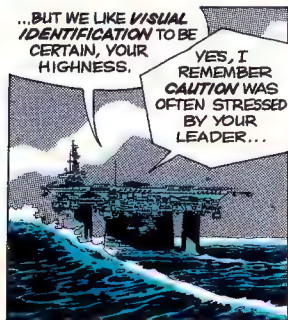
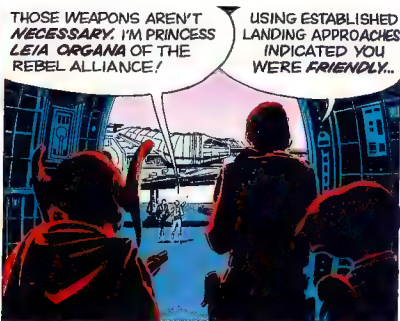
A GOOD FIGHT'S **FINE**, LUKE--
BUT ONLY IF YOU **SURVIVE** IT!

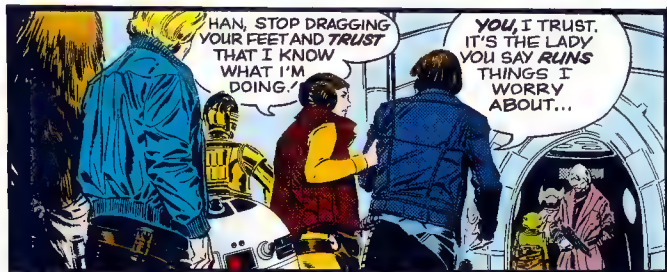
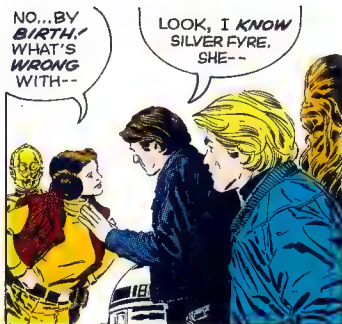


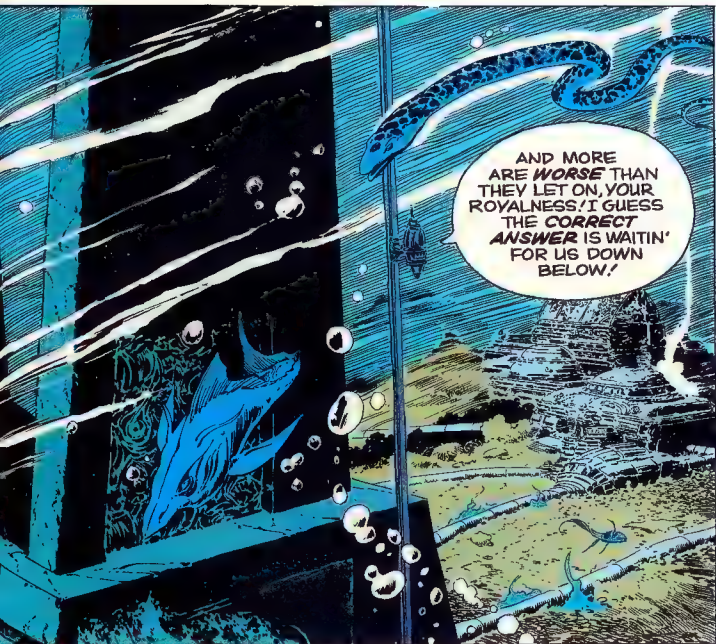
HAN'S RIGHT, LUKE.
YOUR INFORMATION
ABOUT DARTH VADER'S NEW
SHIP WILL BE **USELESS** IF IT
FALLS INTO ENEMY
HANDS. AND THAT'S A
POSSIBILITY...







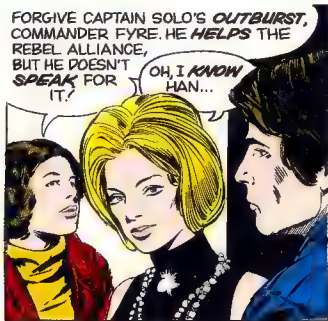
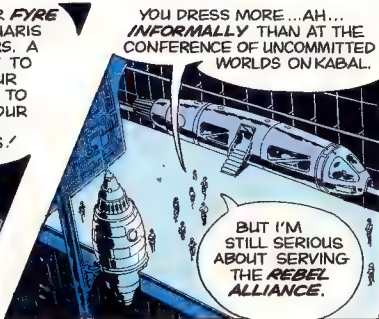
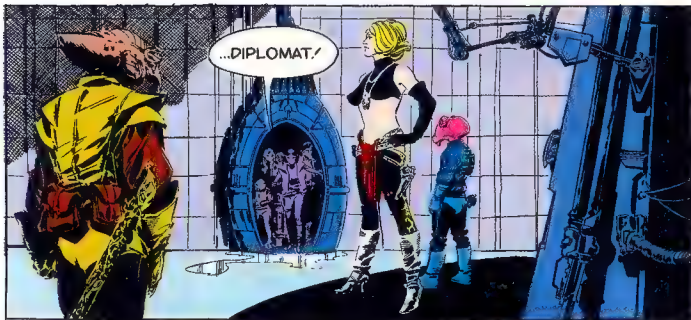




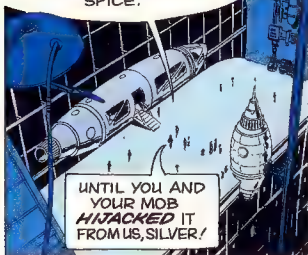
RATHER ELABORATE
BASE FOR MERCENARIES
AND SPACE PIRATES.

I NEVER SAID *SILVER Fyre* DIDN'T THINK
BIG, YOUR WORSHIP--JUST *CROOKED!*

WHEN I MET WITH
HER, SHE WAS EVERY
INCH THE PROPER...



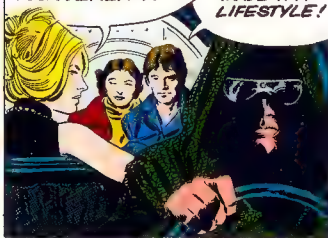
...FROM OUR *WILD DAYS*
AMONG THE RIMWORLDS. HE
AND CHEWBACCA *SMUGGLED*
SPICE.



UNTIL YOU AND
YOUR MOB
HJACKED IT
FROM US, SILVER!

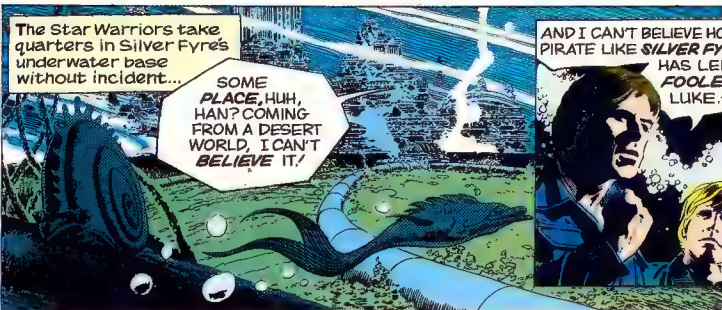
THAT SHOWS PRINCESS
LEIA WHERE OUR *TRUE*
DIFFERENCES LIE.
I WAS *SUCCESSFUL*,
YOU *WEREN'T*.

I NEVER
BETRAYED
ANYBODY,
SILVER...YOU
MADE IT A
LIFESTYLE!



The Star Warriors take
quarters in Silver Fyre's
underwater base
without incident...

SOME
PLACE, HUH,
HAN? COMING
FROM A DESERT
WORLD, I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!

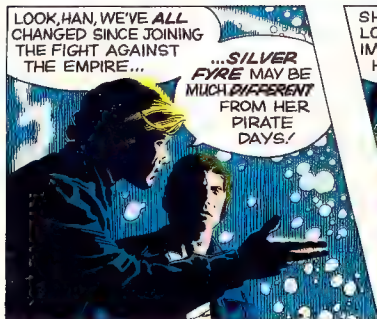


AND I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW A
PIRATE LIKE *SILVER FYRE*
HAS LEIA
FOOLED,
LUKE!



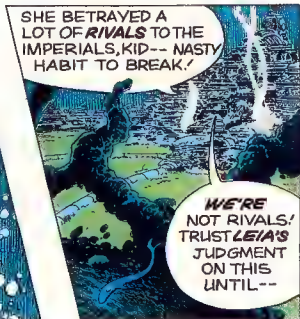
LOOK, HAN, WE'VE *ALL*
CHANGED SINCE JOINING
THE FIGHT AGAINST
THE EMPIRE...

...*SILVER*
FYRE MAY BE
MUCH *DIFFERENT*
FROM HER
PIRATE
DAYS!



SHE BETRAYED A
LOT OF *RIVALS* TO THE
IMPERIALS, KID-- NASTY
HABIT TO BREAK!

WE'RE
NOT *RIVALS!*
TRUST *LEIA'S*
JUDGMENT
ON THIS
UNTIL--



UNTIL SILVER SPRINGS A
TRAP? UNTIL THAT **SECRET**
INFO YOUR DROIDS ARE
CARRYING WINDS UP IN
THE **WRONG**
HANDS?!



UH...HAN? MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T
TALK ABOUT THE DROIDS CARRYING
INFORMATION
BEFORE WE
REACH REBEL
HEADQUARTERS.

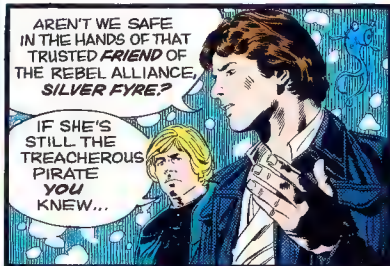


WHY
NOT, KID?

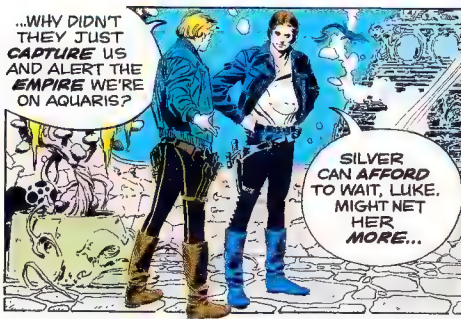


AREN'T WE SAFE
IN THE HANDS OF THAT
TRUSTED **FRIEND** OF
THE REBEL ALLIANCE,
SILVER FYRE?

IF SHE'S
STILL THE
TREACHEROUS
PIRATE
YOU
KNEW...



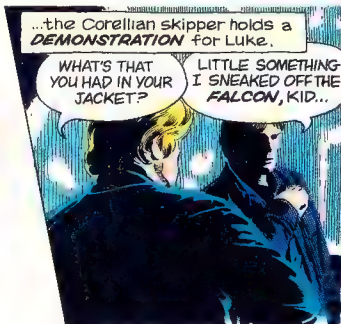
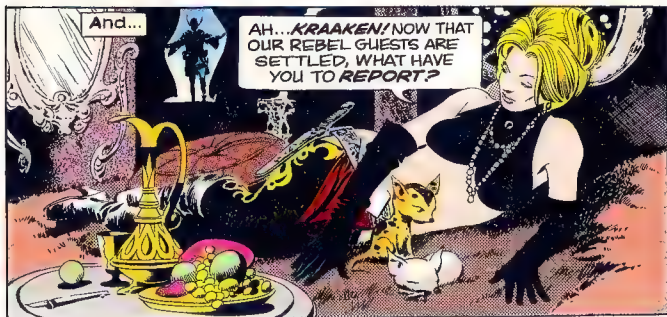
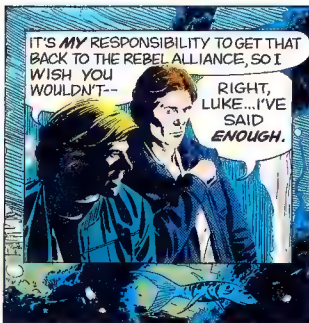
...WHY DIDN'T
THEY JUST
CAPTURE US
AND ALERT THE
EMPIRE WE'RE
ON **AQUARIS?**



SILVER
CAN AFFORD
TO WAIT, LUKE.
MIGHT NET
HER
MORE...

"...LIKE THAT INFO
YOU AND THE **DROIDS**
COLLECTED ON YOUR
SPY MISSION!"



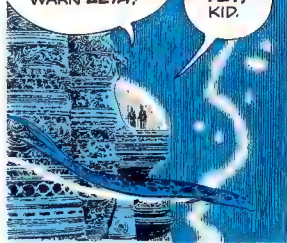


...IT DETECTS **LISTENING DEVICES** IN OPERATION. NOTHIN' DOING NOW, BUT IT WAS TICKIN' LIKE **CRAZY** WHILE WE SPOKE ABOUT YOUR DROIDS CARRYING **SECRET INFO!**



HAN! IF SOMEONE LISTENED IN ON OUR CONVERSATION, WE'VE GOT TO WARN **LEIA!**

NOT YET, KID.



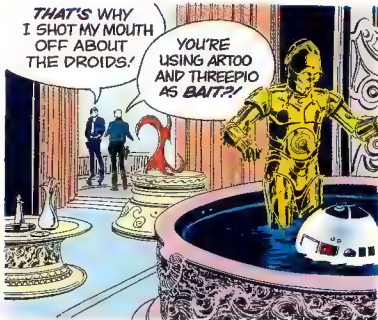
HER WORSHIP SEEMS **CONVINCED** THAT SILVER FYRE AND HER REFORMED PIRATES ARE LOYAL **REBELS** NOW.

SHE'S GONNA WANT **SOLID PROOF** THEY'RE NOT.



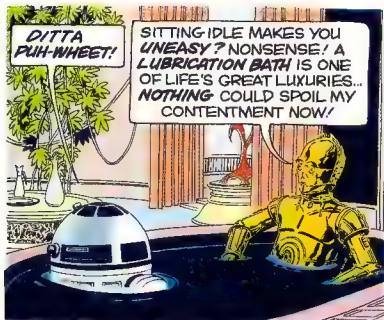
THAT'S WHY I SHOT MY MOUTH OFF ABOUT THE DROIDS!

YOU'RE USING ARTOO AND THREEPIO AS **BAIT?**



DITTA PUH-WHEET!

SITTING IDLE MAKES YOU **UNEASY?** NONSENSE! A **LUBRICATION BATH** IS ONE OF LIFE'S GREAT LUXURIES... **NOTHING** COULD SPOIL MY CONTENTMENT NOW!

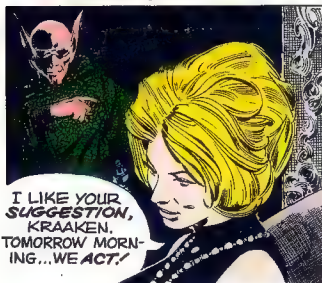


HAN, I WISH YOU'D **ASKED ME** BEFORE SETTING THIS UP!

I CONSIDERED IT...



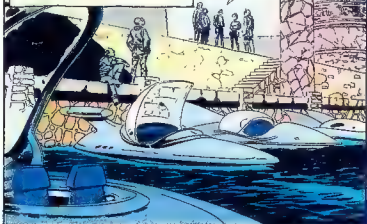
"...BUT YOU MIGHT HAVE SAID **NO**. I'M AFTER **FAST RESULTS, LUKE.**"



I LIKE YOUR **SUGGESTION, KRAAKEN, TOMORROW MORN-ING...WE ACT!**

MORNING! The star warriors are summoned to the underwater base's main airlock...

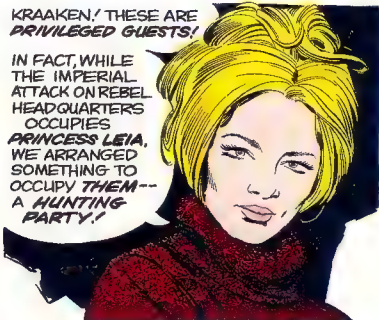
WHAT'S THE **STORY, SILVER?**



SHE'S **COMMANDER FYRE, CORELLIAN**. SHOW OUR **LEADER PROPER RESPECT!**

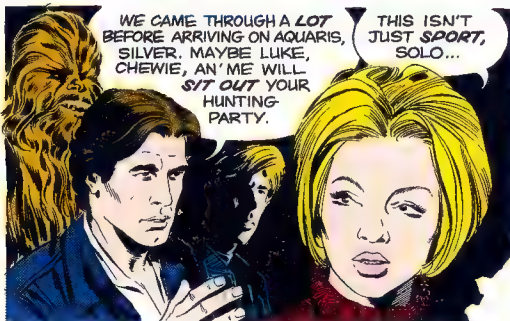
KRAAKEN! THESE ARE **PRIVILEGED GUESTS!**

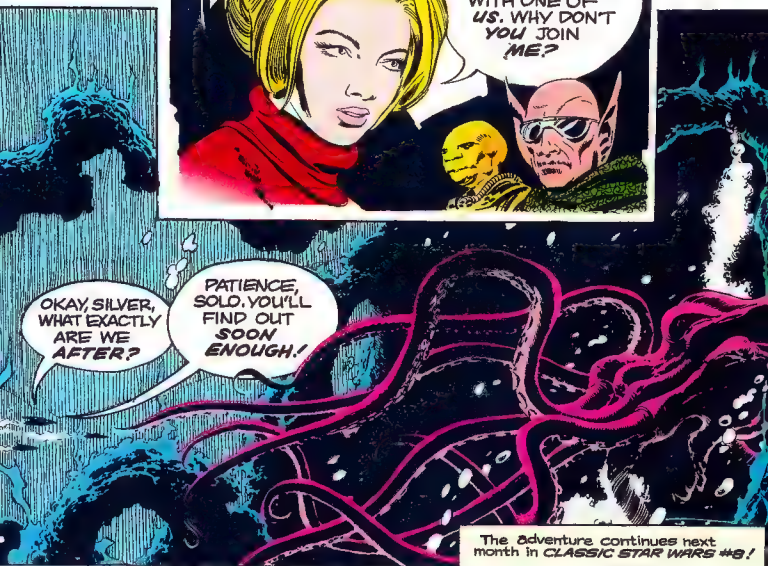
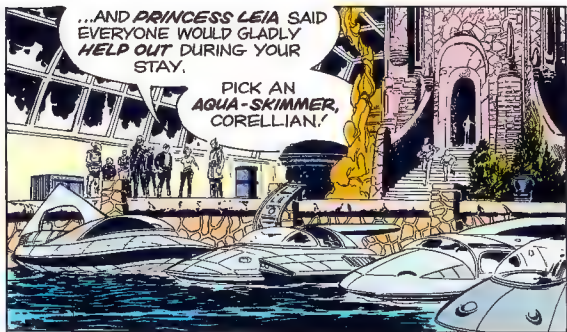
IN FACT, WHILE THE IMPERIAL ATTACK ON REBEL HEADQUARTERS OCCUPIES **PRINCESS LEIA**, WE ARRANGED SOMETHING TO OCCUPY **THEM-- A HUNTING PARTY!**



WE CAME THROUGH A LOT BEFORE ARRIVING ON **AQUARIS**, SILVER. MAYBE **LUKE, CHEWIE**, AN' ME WILL **SIT OUT YOUR HUNTING PARTY.**

THIS ISN'T JUST **SPORT, SOLO...**





The Adventure continues next month in **CLASSIC STAR WARS #8!**

STELLAR scribes

c/o DARK HORSE COMICS • 10956 SE MAIN • MILWAUKIE, OR 97222



We're still catching up on the ton and a half of mail received on the first four issues of this series. Response has been uniformly positive, and the operative word seems to be "more, more, more . . ." (all right, three words). I probably don't need to tell you to keep those cards, letters, and cool *Star Wars* drawings coming!

Steven Worrel
1216 Sonoma
Modesto, CA 95355

I have been reading your *Star Wars* comics since you started printing them, and I must say that *Dark Empire* was good but I love *Classic Star Wars*. There is just something about the time between *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back* that I love.

This series brings back memories of drawing my favorite characters, ships, and weapons in class (I would send copies to you, but I lost them many years ago). I don't remember seeing *Star Wars* or *The Empire Strikes Back* because I was very young, no more than several weeks old when I saw *Star Wars*. However, I do strongly remember seeing *Return of the Jedi*. My mom came and took me out of kindergarten early that day (I never finished the drawing of Superman that I was working on that day). The music blasted through the theater, and I felt like I was sucked into the movie. No movie (with the exception of the other *Star Wars* movies)

has ever given me the same feeling.

I guess that's all for now. This book is the best, with Al's reworking and Steve's coloring, how could it not be the best.

P.S.: Thanks for reprinting what I never got in my youth.

Fernando H. Ramirez
6002 White Cloud
San Antonio, TX 78238

You guys are doing a fabulous job on *Classic Star Wars*. . . I almost bought Cochran's black-and-white volumes, but decided to wait for your version. While I would prefer them in black and white, your colorists are doing a tremendous job. Al Williamson is simply one of comics' top talents (ever see his EC stuff with Frank Frazetta and Roy Krenkle?). And it suits me *fine* to have a monthly dose!! Keep up the great work!!!

P.S.: We simply *must* see Russ Manning's *Star Wars* strips!!

I guess that's my cue to plug our colorists, Steve Buccellato, who's done a fantastic job on the first six issues of the series, and Matthew Hollingsworth, who sits in for Steve on this issue. I agree — they're doing a super job adding color to Al's classic artwork. Take a bow, guys!

B. G. Seaman
East Brunswick, NJ

Memories? Did I hear someone ask for *Star Wars* memories? OK, here goes . . . it was a beautiful spring day in 1977 (May 25, to be exact) when *Star Wars* was first released and I was . . . in my crib. Alas, I was only an infant when *Star Wars* was released, but I did get to see *Return of the Jedi* when I was six. To tell you the truth, I really wasn't interested. *Star Wars* was OK, but I thought it was just a "boy thing" then. Princess Leia was just not as cool as Barbie.

So the years passed and one day when I was about 12 years old and desperately bored for something to watch I pulled out the tape and popped it into the VCR. I finally found out what I had been missing! After that I went *Star Wars* crazy! For the next year I watched all three movies so many times that the magnetic particles in the tapes started to break up and my father had to buy me new ones! My family and friends were almost as surprised as I was that the *Star Wars* phenomenon was still alive.

I have since dedicated much of my free time (and my bank account) to acquire an impressive collection of *Star Wars* paraphernalia and knowledge. Now it seems that *Star Wars* has also led me to recognize my true calling — cinematography. So for all of you who thought *Star Wars* was just a '70s or '80s thing — guess again! *Star Wars* will

continue to influence people for generations to come! May the Force be with you!

Chris J. Scull
7 Rupert Court
Thomastown, Victoria
Australia 3074

Having read *Classic Star Wars* #3 I just thought I would write and register my vote for reprinting Russ Manning's *Han Solo at Star's End*. I'm hoping all stories that were done can be reprinted. We here at the Australian Comic Fan Society think your *Star Wars* books have been excellent. Keep up the good work.

Peter Ruiz
9514 Rufus Ave.
Whittier, CA 90604

As a long-starved fan of *Star Wars* who only had the movies and the old Marvels (which, by the way, got me started on collecting comics) to keep me occupied, I was surprised when I heard about Bantam's release of a new three-book cycle and quickly bought my copy. Then came Dark Horse's announcement of *Dark Empire*, which has proved to be very well done, followed by the reprinting of *Classic Star Wars*. Wow! A fan's dream come true. After getting the feeling that *Star Wars* had become a distant memory of childhood, with the noted exception of gamers and a occasional ride on Star Tours (a benefit of living in Southern California), it has since seemed to snowball. Now talk of a *Dark Empire* sequel and portfolio, plus a *Tales of the Jedi* series, not to mention the new trading cards Topps is going to release . . . I hope this snowball continues

to roll and get bigger!

Now I would like to comment on this series. Being able to get my hands on this stuff when I was a kid was quite difficult and I have since wondered what stories were told, and even more so since they were done by Goodwin and Williamson, who are both standouts in the field. Well, you have put my wonders to rest and I like the results. When I read it, it seemed to flow as if it were always in this form instead of a strip. The colors are great as is the whole format. A credit to the Dark Horse team. Another positive is that reading the comics takes one back to the days of endless speculation when everybody wondered what was going to happen in the next movie. Because of this I would like to cast my votes in favor of the Russ Manning strip being printed, as well as the *Han Solo at Star's End* strip and the Williamson pin-ups. Since I have never seen them, the fact that they were mentioned has aroused my curiosity. I would also like to thank Anina for having a large letter column and for providing responses. I find it interesting to hear what other fans have to say. My only questions are: when did this series originally run [1981-1984] and how come no one has ever mentioned the *Star Wars* in 3-D comics? (Just thought I'd try to spark some conversation.) Well, thank you for your time and I wish you continued success.

Your comment about the issues flowing as if they were always in this form is probably the highest compliment you could have paid erstwhile editor Anina Bennett. A major part of the editorial work on *Classic Star Wars* has involved Anina and our crack team of editorial production

aces — Chris Chalenor, Monty Sheldon, and Evelyn Harris — meticulously laying out, cutting, pasting, and reformatting the daily and Sunday newspaper strips to fit appropriately within the confines of a standard comic-book page, while at the same time smoothing over the redundancies in dialogue and art that were necessitated by the daily strip format. Thanks should go, of course, to Al Williamson and Allen Nunis as well, who have helped to create a smoothly flowing comic story by adding and embellishing the existing strip art with some great-looking new art.

Karl Miller
941 Lakeview Ave. #1
Lowell, MA 01850-1025

I just bought *Classic Star Wars* #4 and I had to write. It's fantastic!! As far as I can see, it matches perfectly with the original strips, except for the great editing to remove the redundant panels needed for a daily strip (I have a copy of the three-volume, hardcover set *The Complete Star Wars*, published by Russ Cochran). [What I said . . .]

I have been a *Star Wars* fanatic (like a lot of people) since May 1977. *Dark Empire* is the greatest comic version I've found yet, and I'm really happy someone finally started a new magazine. Can't wait till *Tales of the Jedi* hits the stands.

Tyler Daniels
4488 N. Cornella #219
Fresno, CA 93722

Kudos all around.

Please keep up the galactic *Star Wars* efforts. I'm willing to take everything you can pub-

lish. I would love to see the Williamson scrapbook illustrations as well as Manning's strip.

This is my first time to read the Williamson series. It seems much more precisely drawn than the Marvel series as far as the spaceships go. I love the many space battles Williamson included. His attention to detail places him among the elite *Star Wars* artists in my opinion.

When exactly does this set of episodes take place in relation to the movies? At one point Han Solo kisses Leia, which isn't likely until after *Empire*, yet Darth Vader doesn't seem to know who Skywalker is.

The Dark Horse comics were mentioned in a recent *Star Wars* book titled *Star Wars: From Concept to Screen to Collectible*, written by Stephen Sansweet, and published by Chronicle Books. Dark Horse certainly has earned a place in the *Star Wars* annals.

The stories appearing here do take place continuity-wise between the first and second movies. As to Han's blatant display of affection toward Leia — it's all part of the lighthearted romantic repartee being played out over the course of this story involving Luke, Han, and Leia.

James Lavin
129 Stiles Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07208

You probably have received many letters regarding your *Star Wars* series. I just want to add another voice and say thanks. I'm 29 years old and saw all three films when they were originally released and have been collecting *Star*

Wars since 1980. I want to thank you again for *Star Wars: Dark Empire* and *Classic Star Wars*. It brought back great memories and allows us fans to be reconnected into the next films.

I heard that you are planning other series on *Star Wars* and also read you may come out with poster art from *Dark Empire*. I hope you do, as this is one reader who would purchase it.

Jon Bochnik
67 Otsego St.
Yonkers, NY 10704

In response to your request for *Star Wars* memories, I would like to offer mine. I unfortunately don't remember where I first saw it, as I had seen it so many times that summer. I can say, however, that *Star Wars* spoiled me. Like Michael McLelland had said about his brother, each new "blockbuster" was nothing compared to *Star Wars*. Nothing will ever recapture that feeling of excitement back in the summer of '77. Every subsequent "blockbuster" I disliked, not because of what it was, but because of what it wasn't! It wasn't *Star Wars*.

I would like to ask if anyone remembers the now deleted scenes of Biggs at the power station. I vaguely remember them (I was only nine), and I would love to see them now. I know that George Lucas said he cut them out because they didn't work, but I think it would be interesting to see the film the way I had first seen it.

Another *Star Wars* memory of mine involves (believe it or not) rainy days. The first time I bought the Topps *Star Wars* trading cards, it was a rainy afternoon after school. I still remember getting into my mom's car with the prized cards in my hands every time

it rains! What a memory that one is.

Many people don't understand the *Star Wars* phenomenon. Even George Lucas says that it's only a movie, but it's not. It's a feeling, and an experience, and an emotional high. I can watch *Star Wars* and become that wide-eyed nine-year-old kid again, and that is something wonderful.

So now I say to you Dark Horse, you too make me a nine-year-old kid all over again!

By the way, your comics are great. Please reprint everything!

John C. Rajca
704 Levick Street
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Thank you, thank you, thank you for *Classic Star Wars*!!! The scripting by Arch Goodwin and the exquisite illustrations by Al Williamson make this one of the best things out there today. Any chance of bringing us their *Secret Agent Corrigan*?

Here is my vote for also re-issuing the Russ Manning strips (which were worked on by a young Dave Stevens from what I have heard). Manning was another great, definitely on a par with Wood, Williamson, Crandall, Frazetta, and so on. And while you are at it I would also like to see the Han Solo strip by Alcala, as well as the Marvel UK weekly series drawn by Carmine Infantino.

Whew! Was there anything else you wanted, John?! I get the distinct impression that most of you out there would like to see basically any and all things *Star Wars*-related, right? Okay . . . we'll see what we can do and keep you posted. 'Til next time.

— Bob Cooper



DCP

PRESENTS A
SCAN BY

DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*